



Current Affairs - July to December 2017

Month Type



- ▶ [184 Current Affairs were found in Last Six Months for Type - Persons on Visit/In News](#)

(Showing **60** Important Ones)

Persons

- ▶ Visits to India (Nov 1 - 10) -
 - ▶ King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck Visited India.
 - ▶ Prime Minister of Latvia, Maris Kucinskis Visited India.
 - ▶ President of Armenia, Serzh Sargsyan Visited India.
 - ▶ Prince of Wales (UK), Charles Philip Arthur George Visited India.
 - ▶ Leo Heller, United Nations Special Rapporteur (UNSR) on human rights Visited India. His statement on M K Gandhi - *Now is a critical time to replace the lens of those glasses (Gandhi's glasses) with the human rights lens*, has triggered objections from India's side.
- ▶ Visits to India (Nov 11 - 20) -
 - ▶ Canadian International Trade Minister *François-Philippe Champagne* visited India to attend 4th Joint Annual Ministerial Dialogue (AMD).
 - ▶ Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France visited India.
- ▶ Visits to India (Nov 21 - 30) -
 - ▶ Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe Visited India.
 - ▶ Finland's Foreign Minister Timo Soini visited India.
 - ▶ Italian Health Minister Beatrice Lorenzin Visited India and signed MoU with India for enhanced cooperation in health sector.
 - ▶ Defence Minister of Singapore, Ng Eng Hen visited India for 2nd Defence Ministers' Dialogue between India and Singapore. During This, India and Singapore signed Agreement for Navy Cooperation that will allow Indian Navy ships logistical support at Singapore's Changi Naval Base located near disputed South China Sea (SCS).
 - ▶ First India-New Zealand Cyber Dialogue held in New Delhi, attended by Paul Ash, Director of National Cyber Policy Office of New Zealand.
 - ▶ Minister of Culture and Information of Afghanistan, Moh. Rasool Bawari Visited India for India-Afghan Cultural Festival in New Delhi.
- ▶ *Freedom of Oxford* honour bestowed on Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi in 1997 by Oxford city has been withdrawn as a reaction to her perceived response to plight of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar. Aung San Suu Kyi's name from Junior Common Room in North Oxford (England) has also been removed.
- ▶ According to Forbes magazine, Jeff Bezos (Amazon CEO) Surpassed Bill Gates as richest person in world with worth \$90.6 billion, compared to Gates' \$90.1 billion Worth.
- ▶ Agriculture Ministry has roped in Actor Akshay Kumar to promote government's flagship agriculture schemes like soil health card, crop insurance, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana etc.
- ▶ Arjan Singh, The Sole Marshal of Indian Air Force (IAF) passed away. He was granted honorary rank of Marshal (highest IAF rank attainable).
- ▶ Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko visited India, marking 25 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between Belarus and India. India and Belarus signed 10 Cooperation agreements during this visit. MOUs Signed for cooperation in Oil and Gas, Agricultural

Research and Education, culture, Sports, Vocational Education and Training, Potash Exploration and Scientific Research.

9. ▶ Bollywood actor Inder Kumar passed away.
10. ▶ British Author and Harry Potter Character creator JK Rowling has been named world's most highly-paid author with earnings of £72.2m (\$95m).
11. ▶ Chairman of Reliance Industries, Mukesh Ambani overtook China's Hui Ka Yan (*Evergrande Group Chairman*) to become Asia's richest person with total wealth of \$42.1 billion, according to Forbes' real time billionaire's list. Globally, Ambani is at 14th spot.
12. ▶ China's Noted political prisoner and Nobel laureate Liu Xiaobo passed away. Liu was awarded the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize for his non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China.
13. ▶ Facebook Co-founder Eduardo Saverin has become Singapore's richest person with a net worth of \$10.4 billion. Saverin gave up his US citizenship in 2012.
14. ▶ Frenchman Francois Gabart created new world record for fastest non-stop solo navigation of globe, after completing it in 42 days, 16 hours, 40 minutes and 35 seconds. He crossed a virtual finish line drawn between the island of Ushant off France's northwest tip and Lizard Point in southwest England at 0145 GMT.
15. ▶ Indian Actress Anushka Sharma is named PETA's Person of the Year by animal rights organisation People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), for helping to protect dogs from fireworks to advocating for horses who are forced to pull carriages in Mumbai.
16. ▶ Indian PM Narendra Modi Visited Myanmar, After attending 9th BRICS Summit in Xiamen (China). Several MOUs were signed -
 - ▶ Maritime Security Cooperation.
 - ▶ Cultural Exchange Programme for 2017-2020.
 - ▶ Enhancing Cooperation of Upgradation of Women's Police Training Centre at Yamethin, Myanmar.
 - ▶ Sharing White Shipping Information between Navies.
 - ▶ Technical Agreement for providing Coastal Surveillance System.
 - ▶ MoU on Cooperation in Medical Products Regulation.
 - ▶ Exchange of Letter for Extension of MoU on establishment of MIT India-Myanmar Center for Enhancement of IT-Skill.
 - ▶ Cooperation in Election Commissions and Press Councils of Both nations.
17. ▶ Indian origin Person Gina Miller named UK's most influential black person of the year as she won a legal challenge seeking Parliamentary approval for triggering Brexit.
18. ▶ India's first Olympic swimmer Shamsher Khan passed away. He represented India in 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne (Australia).
19. ▶ India's gymnast Dipa Karmakar has been conferred an Honorary D.Litt. degree by National Institute of Technology (NIT) Agartala.
20. ▶ India's two-time Olympic footballer Ahmed Khan passed away. He had played in 1948 and 1952 Olympics.
21. ▶ Justice Swatanter Kumar retired as Chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT).
22. ▶ Mahendra Singh Dhoni inaugurated his first global cricket academy in Dubai (UAE), as MS Dhoni Cricket Academy (MSDCA).
23. ▶ Mark Beaumont (UK) broke world record for cycling around the world as He arrived in Paris 1 day ahead of schedule. He cycled 18,000-miles in 79 days.
24. ▶ Miroslav Lajcak (Slovakia), President-elect of 72nd United Nations General Assembly visited India.
25. ▶ Nitasha, a trans woman from Kolkata has been named winner of first Miss Transqueen India Beauty Pageant held in Gurugram (Haryana).
26. ▶ Norwegian Nobel Institute announced that Nobel Peace prize awarded to Myanmar's Aung Sang Suu Kyi cannot be revoked, as demanded by An online petition signed by over 386,000 people on Change.org.
 - ▶ Petition calls for revocation of Nobel Peace Prize conferred on Suu Kyi in 1991, over persecution of Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims.
27. ▶ Noted Czech Republic tennis player Jana Novotna passed Away. She won Women's Singles Wimbledon in 1998 and was 16-time Grand Slam winner in doubles and mixed doubles.
28. ▶ Noted Hindi poet and Jnanpith awardee Kunwar Narayan passed away.
29. ▶ Noted Iranian Mathematician Maryam Mirzakhani passed away. She was only woman to receive Field Medal (equivalent of Nobel Prize for mathematics).
30. ▶ Noted classical singer of the Seniya and Banaras gharanas, Girija Devi passed away. She was known as Queen of Thumri. She was recipient of Padma Vibhushan - India's second highest civilian honour.
31. ▶ Noted historian Satish Chandra passed away, known for his deep work on Mughal Empire. He was also author of NCERT's leading history book *History of Medieval India*.
32. ▶ Noted international sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik created world's biggest sand Santa-face with message "world peace" at Puri beach (Odisha). The Santa face is 25 feet tall and 50 feet wide. It is to be placed in Limca Book of World Records.
33. ▶ Noted journalist Bismoy Kumar Mohanty passed way. Known as Owner and Editor of Odia daily *Ajikalika*.

34. ▶ Obituaries -

- ▶ Neeraj Vora - Noted actor and Director.
- ▶ AS Anand - Former Chief Justice of India.
- ▶ Johnny Hallyday - France's Noted rock star, known as *French Elvis*.
- ▶ Abi (*Habeeb Ahmed*) - Malayalam actor and mimicry artist
- ▶ Ja Ra Sundaresan - Noted Tamil journalist.
- ▶ Shashi Kapoor - Noted Bollywood actor
- ▶ Purabi Mukhopadhyay - Noted Rabindra sangeet singer
- ▶ Laloo Chiba - Noted South African Freedom Fighter of Indian Origin
- ▶ Adithyan - Noted South Indian music director .
- ▶ Sukharanjan Sengupta - Noted journalist
- ▶ Batuk Gathani - Noted Journalist
- ▶ Lalji Singh - Noted Scientist (pioneer of DNA fingerprinting technology in India.
- ▶ Keely Smith - Noted American Jazz and Pop Singer.
- ▶ Bruce McCandless - Noted NASA astronaut (first person to fly in space without tethers)
- ▶ Banwari Lal Joshi - former UP and Uttarakhand Governor.
- ▶ Robbie Malinga - Noted South African musician.
- ▶ Bob Givens - Noted American Animator (creator of Bugs Bunny)
- ▶ Ashok Kumar Mattoo - Noted sports administrator, served as President of IABF (Indian Amateur Boxing Federation) and was first President of Hockey India.
- ▶ Partha Mukhopadhyay - Noted Bengali actor.
- ▶ Jatileswar Mukhopadhyay - Noted Bengali singer.
- ▶ Hoshang Dadiba Amroliwala - First Class cricketer (Mumbai).
- ▶ Sue Grafton -Noted mystery author (USA).

35. ▶ Pakistani Cricketer Saeed Ajmal announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.

36. ▶ Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Vietnam visited India.

37. ▶ Renowned Indian Scientist Professor Yash Pal passed away, Known for his contributions to study of cosmic rays. He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1976 and Padma Vibhushan in 2013.

38. ▶ Robert Mugabe Resigned as President of African Nation Zimbabwe, after recent large scale Military Upset.

- ▶ Mugabe has been ruling Zimbabwe since its independence in 1980. Now, Emmerson Mnangagwa will be appointed as President.

39. ▶ SEBI Chairman Ajay Tyagi is named 7th among top 10 regulators in world, as per Worlds Most Influential People in Market Structure report (also known as The Exchange Invest 1000 (EI1000)) by Patrick Young & Exchange Invest.

- ▶ List is topped by European Unions Commissioner (Competition) Margrethe Vestager.

40. ▶ Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has been voted the Time magazine readers' Person of the Year.

- ▶ Time magazine named *the silence breakers* as its Person of the Year for 2017. It refers to those individuals, mostly women, who came forward this year with #MeToo movement to publicly expose patterns of sexual harassment and assault by powerful public figures in United States.

41. ▶ Search engine Google celebrated 151st birthday of Cornelia Sorabji with a doodle dedicated to her. She helped open up higher education as well as legal profession to women as She was first woman to graduate in law from India as early as 1892 and first Indian national to attend British University.

42. ▶ Sikh American Gurbir Grewal became first Sikh public prosecutor to be nominated for post of Attorney General of New Jersey, nominated by Governor-elect Phil Murphy.

43. ▶ Solicitor General Ranjit Kumar (country's second-most senior legal officer) has resigned.

44. ▶ Switzerland President Doris Leuthard Visited India. 2 MOUS were Signed in area of Railways -

- ▶ Exchanging technical cooperation in Railways.
- ▶ MoU is between Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) and Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich.

45. ▶ Tourism Australia appointed Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra as first Indian woman Ambassador to encourage Indians to visit Australia. This panel includes people like Chef Sanjeev Kapoor and commentator Harsha Bhogle.

46. ▶ Ustad Hussain Sayeeduddin Dagar, noted expert of Dhrupad tradition of Hindustani classical music passed away.

47. ▶ Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu released Commemorative coins of INR 100 and 10 denominations on occasion of 101st Birth Centenary of noted Carnatic musician MS Subbulakshmi.

- She was first musician to be awarded Bharat Ratna (in 1998). She was also first Indian musician to receive Ramon Magsaysay award (1974) and first Indian musician to perform at UN General Assembly. UN issued stamp In 2016, to honour MS Subbulakshmi.
48. ▶ Vishal Sikka resigned as Managing Director and CEO of Mainstream IT Firm Infosys. Meanwhile, UB Pravin Rao has been appointed as Interim CEO.
49. ▶ Visits From India (Nov 11 - 20) -
- ▶ PM Narendra Modi Visited Philippines-
 - ▶ He Attended 31st ASEAN Summit in Manila with Theme *Partnering for Change, Engaging the World*.
 - ▶ PM Modi also attended 12th East Asia Summit, 15th India-Asean Summit, ASEAN Business & Investment Summit and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Leaders' Meetings that were held alongwith.
 - ▶ ASEAN Grouping also observed 50 years of existence this year.
 - ▶ PM Modi also visited International Rice Research Institute in Laguna and inaugurated Resilient Rice Field Laboratory.
 - ▶ PM Modi also met USA Prez Donald Trump, who was on an Official Visit to China, Vietnam and Philippines. India, USA, Japan and Australia held their first official-level talks to focus on keeping India-Pacific region *free and open*.
 - ▶ India and Philippines signed 4 agreements in defence, agriculture, small and medium enterprises and tie-up between think-tanks.
 - ▶ ASEAN -
 - ▶ Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional organisation 10 Southeast Asian Nations - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Observers - Papua New Guinea, East Timor.
 - ▶ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley visited Singapore.
 - ▶ Minister of Women and Child Development, Maneka Gandhi Visited Argentina for attending 4th Global Conference on Sustained Eradication of Child Labour held in Buenos Aires.
 - ▶ Minister of Commerce and Industry, Suresh Prabhu visited Russia to participate in Shanghai Cooperation Organization Meeting of the Ministers of Member States responsible for Foreign Economic and Foreign Trade.
 - ▶ J P Nadda, Minister of Health and Family Welfare visited Moscow (Russia) to attend 1st WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Ending TB. He reaffirmed India's commitment to eliminating TB by 2025. The conference focused on eliminating TB across globe by 2030.
50. ▶ Visits From India (Nov 21 - 30) -
- ▶ Indian Navy Chief Sunil Lanba visited Bangladesh to participate in International Multilateral Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (IMMSAREX), first ever operational exercise held under aegis of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) in Bangladesh.
 - ▶ Home Minister Rajnath Singh Visited Russia. Russia agreed to assist India to set up a national crisis management centre to handle disaster and other emergency situations.
 - ▶ Nitin Gadkari (*Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation*) visited United Kingdom. India and UK decided to sign an MoU in urban transport sector for cooperation in policy planning, technology transfer and institutional organisation.
 - ▶ Inter-Governmental Mid-Point review meeting of Asia and Pacific Decade for Persons with Disabilities 2013-2022 held in Beijing (China). It was attended by Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment Thawar Chand Gehlot, on India's Behalf.
51. ▶ Visits from India (Dec 1 - 10, 2017) -
- ▶ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited Sochi (Russia) to attend Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit. India and Pakistan became full-fledged members of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in June 2017.
 - ▶ NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar Visited China to attend 3rd Dialogue between India's NITI Aayog and Development Research Council of China (DRC).
 - ▶ Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu Visited Buenos Aires (Argentina) to attend 11th Ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
52. ▶ Visits from India (Dec 11 - 20, 2017)
- ▶ Minister of State for Culture (IC) and Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Mahesh Sharma visited Muscat (Oman) for 2nd UN World Tourism Organization/UNESCO World Conference on Tourism and Culture.
53. ▶ Visits from India (Nov 1 - 10) -
- ▶ Commerce & Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu visited Caribbean Nation Cuba to explore bilateral trade and investment opportunities in Latin American and Caribbean regions.

- ✍ Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan visited Thailand for attending 7th Asian Energy Ministers' Round Table organised by International Energy Forum (IEF) in Bangkok.
- ✍ Prakesh Javedkar (Minister of Human Resource Development) Visited Paris (France) to attend 39th Bi-annual General Conference of UNESCO.
- ✍ Minister of State (IC) of Youth Affairs and Sports, Rajyavardhan Rathore attended World Youth Forum 2017 in Egypt.
- ✍ Harsh Vardhan (Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) visited Germany for 23rd United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- ✍ Ayush Minister Sripad Naik visited UAE to participate in first International Ayush Conference and Exhibition in Dubai. He Announced that India will provide full scholarship to 100 non-Indian students for studying Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (Ayush) in any of public institutions across India.

54. ▶ Visits from India -

- ✍ Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa visited Australia and USA.
- ✍ Minister for Commerce and Industry, Suresh Prabhu visited South Korea to participate in the 7th Asia-Europe (ASEM) Economic Ministers meeting.
- ✍ Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan visited Kazakhstan to co-chair the 13th meeting of the India-Kazakhstan Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC).
- ✍ Maharashtra government signed MoU with South Korea for increasing co-operation in several infrastructure projects, during CM Devendra Fadnavis's visit to South Korea.

55. ▶ Visits from India -

- ✍ Navy Chief Sunil Lanba visited Vietnam.
- ✍ Science & Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan visited South Africa to mark 20 years of Science & Technology cooperation between India and South Africa.
- ✍ Minister of Commerce & Industry Suresh Prabhu visited Sweden to attend *Make in India: Sweden 2017* organized by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in Stockholm.
- ✍ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited Philippines to attend Southeast Asian Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM).
 - ✍ On sidelines of this meet, Mrs. Nirmala Met US Secretary of Defence Jim Mattis. India and USA agreed to implement programme for Helicopter Operations from Ships other Than Aircraft Carriers (HOSTAC).
- ✍ Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Arun Jaitley visited Bangladesh.
 - ✍ Bangladesh signed USD 4.5 billion third line of credit (LoC) agreement with India for its social sector development and infrastructure. The agreement was announced during PM Sheikh Hasina's visit to India in April 2017.
- ✍ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited Bangladesh. Bangladesh Petroleum Corp and Numaligarh Refinery Ltd signed long-term sales and purchase agreement . BPC will take up to 250,000 tonnes of gas oil each year from NRL for first 3 years. She inaugurated India's new chancery complex in Dhaka.
- ✍ Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan visited Japan to participate in 6th annual LNG Producers Consumer Conference.
- ✍ Minister of State for External Affairs V K Singh visited South Africa. He inaugurated Gandhi museum on a small piece of land once owned by Mahatma Gandhi in Durban.
- ✍ Minister for Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu visited USA for attending 11th India-United States Trade Policy Forum (TPF) Meeting held in Washington DC.
- ✍ Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping, Nitin Gadkari Visited UAE for India-United Arab Emirates (UAE) Partnership Summit in Dubai. It was organized under Business Leaders Forum (BLF), an organisation of business leaders in UAE that was set up by UAE Ministry of Economy, Embassy of India and Consulate General of India.

56. ▶ Visits to India (Dec 1 - 10, 2017)

- ✍ Roberto Tomas Morales Ojeda, Public Health Minister of Cuba Visited India. During this Visit, India and Cuba signed MoU for enhanced cooperation in health sector.
- ✍ Maurizio Martina, Italian Minister for Agriculture Food and Forestry Policies Visited India. During this visit, India and Italy signed MoU for cooperation in Agriculture and Phytosanitary issues.
- ✍ Afghanistan's second vice president Mohammad Sarwar Danish visited India and attended an international conference on 'Harmony and Memorial of Mother Teresa', in Mumbai.

57. ▶ Visits to India (Dec 11 - 20, 2017)

- ✎ Russia, India, and China Foreign Ministers' 15th meet held in New Delhi. Visiting Foreign Ministers - Sergei Lavrov (Russia), Wang Yi (China).
- ✎ Mr. Goh Chok Tong, Emeritus Senior Minister of Singapore Visited India.
- ✎ Argentine Football legend Diego Maradona visited India and unveiled his huge statue in Kolkata.
- ✎ Morocco Minister of Health Abdelkader Amara visited India. MOUs -
 - ✎ Health Care.
 - ✎ Water Resources.
 - ✎ Cooperation in Indian Maritime University (IMU) and Higher Institute of Maritime Studies (ISEM) of Morocco AND National Ports Agency (NPA) of Morocco.
 - ✎ Cooperation between Institute of Training in Engines and Road Maintenance of Morocco (IFEER) and Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE).
- ✎ Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland Visited India.
 - ✎ 2018 Commonwealth Games will be held in April 2018 in Gold Coast (Australia).
- ✎ 4th India-Australia-Japan Trilateral Dialogue held in New Delhi. Visiting Delegates - Frances Adamson (Australia's Secretary of Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade), Shinsuke J. Sugiyama (Japan's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs)

58. ▶ Visits to India (Dec 21 - 31, 2017)

- ✎ Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, Dmitry Rogozin visited India. He attended Meeting of India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) held in New Delhi.
- ✎ Jordan's External Affairs Minister Ayman Al Safadi visited India.

59. ▶ Visits to India -

- ✎ Tin Aung San, Navy Chief of Myanmar.
- ✎ Minister of Trade of Indonesia, Enggartiasto Lukita.
- ✎ US Secretary of Defense James Mattis.
- ✎ Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. He inaugurated first ever India, US and Afghanistan joint trade and investment show in Delhi.

60. ▶ Visits to India -

- ✎ US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson visited India. Ashraf Ghani, President of Afghanistan also visited India and trilateral discussion of India-USA-Afghanistan held in New Delhi.
- ✎ French Defence Minister Florence Parly visited India.
 - ✎ India - France joint Naval exercise VARUNA will be held in early 2018.
- ✎ Prime Minister of Italy Paolo Gentiloni visited India. It marks 70 years of Diplomatic ties between India and Italy. MOUs Signed are -
 - ✎ Cooperation for Safety in Railway sector, Energy, Cultural Cooperation.
 - ✎ Promoting mutual investments between Italian Trade Agency and Invest India.
- ✎ Tunisian Foreign Affairs Minister Khemaies Jhinaoui Visited India for 12th Session of India-Tunisia Joint Commission Meet in Delhi.

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